

## **Video Transcript: Press conference for the new Sacramento courthouse**

Sacramento's going to be getting a brand new criminal courthouse! At a recent press conference, Presiding Judge James Mize said the additional courtrooms are desperately needed.

Judge Mize "*If I had them tomorrow I would fill them the next day. We need them now.*"

Last year the downtown Sacramento courthouse served more than a million people – more than 100,000 civil filings and a quarter million criminal filings. As criminal cases build up, civil cases go to the back burner – which is an emotional and economic burden on litigants.

Judge Mize "*So if in fact we do not get civil cases out on time and resolve those than everyone in this county is affected.*"

County Supervisor Roger Dickinson. "We need a new courthouse here in Sacramento County."

Preliminary plans include 35 or more courtrooms on 12 floors – about 400,000 square feet. Construction could begin in the fall of 2012, with move-in two years later. The price tag is more than 500-million dollars – an investment in the future.

Assemblyman Jones "*We need to be making investments in infrastructure so that we're ready when we get out of these times to make sure we have the infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of the state and this county.*"

The new courthouse will be paid for entirely by an increase in court fees, penalties and assessments that went into effect statewide January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Nothing from the state's general fund. The building project will be a tremendous boost to the community.

Judge Mize "*We also know there's going to be a great partnership because we're going to have a half a billion dollars pumped into the Sac economy as a result of this new courthouse.*"

Lee Willoughby "*With all the bad news that's in the papers it is so nice to say we're going to be building buildings and putting thousands of people to work. We're delighted to be able to do that.*"

No site has been selected yet – that's the next task. I'm Dex Craig reporting.